

CAMP PERROT
SUGGESTIONS
and
RECOMMENDATIONS

1948

**SUGGESTIONS
and
RECOMMENDATIONS
CAMP PERROT 1948**

1. The Barn: That the Foremen's Club be encouraged to complete renovations of the Barn before the beginning of the 1949 season:
 - (a) The section formerly used to store ice be built up to the level of the other flooring.
 - (b) The western section be turned into a Crafts section with adequate cupboard space, and that the electric wiring be extended to that area, with provision to be made to eventually use power tools.
 - (c) That the stage section be completed with special wiring for stage lights installed and wings or dressing room space be made available.
 - (d) That the interior be spray-painted in harmonizing colours.
 - (e) That the roof be re-shingled or otherwise weather-proofed.
 - (f) That the barn area have a number of floor-plug outlets for use of movies or other special events.
 - (g) That a proper stairs be built up to the loft section, and that this area could be renovated and used for a balcony to the assembly section, a reading or club room and many other uses.
 - (h) That more window space be made available on the western side to be used for crafts.
 - (i) That the rear door be permanently locked and kept closed.
 - (j) That the two entrances now available be securely locked when not in use, and that strong locks be used throughout the entire barn to protect the contents.
 - (k) That benches be made to line the inside wall of the Recreation section. (non-movable type)
 - (l) That cupboard space be available to store games equipment around hall area, (suggest under benches)

2. The Garden: After careful consideration it is our critical opinion that the idea of cultivating a garden during the camping season should be abandoned. The results achieved are negligible to the food supply, and the labour involved is out of all proportion to the amount gained. The campers felt it was an imposition on their time, and the little work done was completed by members of the staff in any spare time they might have had, the crop with few exceptions did not produce in time for the camp to use, and all in all it was very discouraging for the cost and effort.

However, this area would make an ideal spot for several tennis courts and a games area. It is well shaded, has an excellent hedge around and is easy of access.

3. The Cottage:

(1) Cellar

- (a) The present water-pump should be completely re-conditioned. Soundings should be taken of present well to determine the depth of water and if the pump now in use is sufficiently powerful to draw same to surface. That the inlet to the cellar from the garden well water should be tested to see if there is water in large enough quantities and if so, then the pipe inlet should be hooked up to act as a reservoir for the other well. This would then necessitate the garden-well unused at present, to be adequately covered.
- (b) The constant dampness of the cellar does not permit it to be used as a reliable storage place for any equipment that may rust, corrode or be of value after any time left there. Proper ventilation would help to a slight degree but not to any appreciable extent.

(II) Kitchen

- (a) With slight alterations, and the opening of the verandah door, this area could be made into a suitable Tuck Shop for the campers. Generous hours when the Tuck Shop would be open and operating, together with attractive surroundings, benches, tables, and a variety of goods for sale at suitable prices would lessen the desire of the staff, counsellors and campers to visit the nearby and in my opinion, undesirable restaurant around the corner from the camp.

*too optimistic
if it paid
for the keepers
would be lucky*

This renovation would cost a little to be done, but in my opinion unless it is done well, it should not be attempted. Over a period of time, I feel sure the profits from such a place would well take care of the cost of the alterations, and that an elder person should be partially employed to attend this Tuck Shop and look after the business of such a place.

It is also my strong opinion, that arrangements could be made in such a place with the Bell Telephone Company to have a Pay Telephone installed there, where it would be under control of such an attendant who would be employed there in the Tuck Shop, thus giving us the benefit of telephone service into the camp, but also controlling the out-going calls to regular periods under supervision and forcing the people making such calls to pay. I understand also that from such a telephone service there is a generous discount allowed on the total receipts.

Such an arrangement as that suggested above would not in any way prevent the usual use of the kitchen equipment, stoves, etc. for small parties or duties connected with the house.

3. The Cottage:
(Continued)

The above suggestion has been arrived at after the experience with the Restaurant this summer and the ineffectual effort to keep a certain record of outgoing telephone calls. It would under this arrangement be necessary to eliminate the present telephone, and all camp out-going calls would be paid for in cash, with a limited and controlled time for people other than staff to use same. (Selected staff people could have a key to the Tuck area and thus use the phone). The Tuck Shop could be open to parents and visitors on Sundays and a considerable revenue thus collected that now goes to the Restaurant.

(III) The Living Room

This room is now in excellent condition for the reception of visitors and guests, however, it is not fully or well equipped with furniture and requires additional chairs, mats, pictures, a comfortable sofa or chesterfield, etc.

(IV) The Bathroom and Stairway

The stairway leading to the upper section of the house is in urgent need of a paint job, and the Bathroom should be repainted yearly to maintain it in an acceptable condition for the Staff and Camp Visitors, before, during and after the regular camp season. This bathroom should not be made available to all the Counsellors, or any Campers except in dire emergencies as the capacity of the drainage system is limited.

(V) Office

The desk and various cupboards now in the office should be reinforced with locks to prevent official information from going to the wrong people. The typewriter should also be placed in a case or receptacle where its unauthorized use can be prevented. As there is not always a Staff member present in the office, and on several occasions, information, loss of valuable equipment or personal belongings disappeared. Confidential information, bills and other matters should be the concern only of the members of the staff entrusted with such facts or duties.

(VI) Storage Room

The old Food Storage room under the stairway is an excellent but small place to maintain supplies for Tuck and many other miscellaneous items. Access to this room as to others, should be limited.

4. Hospital:

Though the hospital is a new building, and excellently furnished and decorated in every way to fulfill its essential function, the following items should be given consideration with a view to always maintaining it in first-class condition:-

4. Hospital:
(Continued)

- (a) The flooring as constructed is not be best adapted to keep clean or that presents an unbroken and neat surface. A new flooring could be over-laid on the present one that would be much more sanitary, easier to clean, much more presentable and last a lot longer.
- (b) With a view to the future, a flush toilet could be installed in the present room housing the chemical toilet and prevent a lot of disagreeable odours from penetrating the hospital room.
- (c) The entrance door to the hospital is at the time awkward to open from the outside, a railing along-side the stairs would aid the people going into the hospital and prevent the door from swinging too far out, and accidents from a slip on the stairs.
- ↙(d) There is at present no eavestrofts around the roof, some method of collecting rain water should be devised to drain the building and prevent erosion on the verandah and around the building.
- (e) Shrubs, flowers and strategic placed shade trees planted around the hospital can add a great deal to the beauty of the building in the years to come.
- (f) A graduated ramp should be made from the hospital bed-room to the verandah to make the movement of beds to and from the area easier.

5. The Dining Hall:

This new building has already proven itself invaluable to the camp. A pleasant place to eat, unsurpassed for rainy-day camp-fires, an excellent view, a grand meeting place, an attractive and outstanding cheerful fireplace, an efficient unit that knits the entire camp together. This building is the answer to a great many dreams of various people. The recommendations listed are the results of the experiences of only one season and are made only to increase the efficiency of the building, and to utilize all its outstanding features to the full, not only during the camping season but for that great period of time when it can be useful before and after the childrens camping period.

- (a) The stove from the old kitchen has not in actual practice proven very efficient, economical or as responsive as it should have been for the new building. Three emergency calls were placed with the manufacturing concern to have them make adjustments and recommend proper procedures. After they had made the visit the behaviour of the stove lasted for only a very brief period and it again re-acted unfavourably. The top plate of the stove cracked completely across and a new one was ordered. This is at present at the camp but has not been used because of other difficulties and the high cost of the part it was decided not to make the replacement at this time but rather to wait for a decision of the Camp Committee and see if a new stove could be purchased.

- (b) Two electric plug outlets on the beams in the kitchen have never been used due to the height at which they have been placed and their almost inaccessibility. It is recommended that these be lowered to the side of the wall near the fireplace. The job can be done simply and without the need of new parts or replacements.
- (c) In the Dining Hall proper the corner areas can simply have racks made to hold books and writing equipment. Several tables not at present in use can be made into temporary desks. Books can be secured by asking each camper attending to contribute a suitable book. The arrangement of such an area would add greatly to the use of the hall, particularly on rainy days. Several corners of the Dining Hall could also be set aside for the use of a Nature Museum.
- (d) To add colour to the Dining Hall, it is suggested that an exchange of Pennants and Crests be arranged with other YMCA camps across Canada. A suitable place for the displaying of these would be along the top of the south wall of the Dining Hall.
- (e) Additional verandah chairs would add greatly to the comfort of campers and visitors. At the present time there are six, sturdy and comfortable chairs available, these are occupied on most occasions and as a result benches from the Dining Hall have been brought out to care for the over-flow. Ten more chairs of the same type would be useful, four more for the verandah, and the others could be used on the lawn around the cottage and hospital.
- (f) A long rubber hose with the proper water connections would be extremely useful around the Dining Hall. A few of its many uses would be:- (1) An emergency fire-hose for the Dining Hall and Kitchen; (2) Flushing and washing of the verandah; (3) Watering the shrubs and flowers around the Dining Hall; (4) Keeping the rear kitchen area clean and in an sanitary condition, washing out garbage cans, containers and box where containers are kept, etc.

6. The Cabin-by-the-Lake:

This cabin needs some special attention given to it, in order to maintain it at anywhere near the standard of the other camp buildings. Minor changes were made this season, not all of a harmonizing nature. At the present time it is not an attractive building, but it is indeed worthy of a little more thought, attention, work and money to put it in good condition.

- (a) This season it was partially debarked. (A very difficult and unsatisfactory job.) and then whitewashed. The whitewash did not take and streaked very badly. A real paint job is needed on the exterior, preferably of a grass green colour with some suitable other colour for trim.

- (b) An additional verandah should be added on the south lake side. (The cabin originally had one there.) This would greatly add to its attractiveness, and give an unsurpassed view, out-of-the-sun, to visitors and picnickers.
- (c) The interior stairs as now used are dangerous and require immediate repairs. New treads and a railing.
- (d) A little cheerful paint used around the interior downstairs would completely alter the present drab interior. The floor and some furniture this year was apinted the only available colour - - Grey.
- (e) Better furnishings, (e,g.) beds, tables, bureaus, chairs and some colourful drapes and pictures would add a great deal to the inside atmosphere. With the changes suggested being made, it would also be in keeping to alter the name of this building to "Guest House" for the many people that arrive at the camp and are invited to stay over-night. At the present time, there is no suitable dwelling to offer such guests. Several senior members of the camp staff could also make this their residence during the camp season.

7. Waterfront:

After a great deal of work and effort the beach and shoreline this year began to show results. The low Spring water-level aided in bringing back the ideal beach we have. The water-front is of a major importance to the camp. and with the increasing difficulty of moving off the land property for over-night camping or spots to which a hiking party can travel to on the Island restricted, then the only outlet for excess energy of the campers becomes the beach area, and over-night canoe trips to nearby points of interest and camping spots.

The Beach Our neighbours to the west have at considerable expense constructed a rock retaining wall all along the waterfront of their property. This wall is made of imported rock, three feet high, and about three feet away from the waters edge. They are using dirt fill behind it to give it a solid base. They have no sandy beach such as ours in front of it, and their waterfront is completely covered with reeds. This rock wall extends right up to the edge of our property, and such a retaining wall continued along the contours of our property, would give us a great deal of sandy beach in front and stop further erosion of the cliff. We have a great many natural rocks along the shore that would be useful in making such a wall.

Piers At least two well constructed piers out into the lake are necessary for the docking of boats and to be used for swimming purposes. Such piers also aid nature in keeping the sand on the beach and preventing erosion of same by heavy waves. These piers could be constructed out

of the natural rocks now along the shore-line or of concrete pyramid blocks on which wooden jetties could be constructed, and removed at the close of each season.

Boats and Watercraft We have been unfortunate in the past in the purchase of our boats. At the present time we have only two boats suitable for the waterfront. The others are not sea-worthy and after a great deal of time spent on repairing them they were still not redeemable for this year or next. Boats are necessary for swim patrol and over-night trips. It is therefore recommended that the fleet of boats be built up to at least a total of ten craft. One more large Hudson Bay Freight canoe or War Canoe should be included in this list for taking a party of ten at once for over-night canoe trips.

8. Chapel:

Sunday services were held regularly in the grove of trees on the camp property. It was necessary on each occasion to take benches and tables down from the Dining Hall to use for the congregation. This area, with a little construction and levelling of the ground can be turned into one of the finest out-door chapels. No trees or shrubs need be cut or removed to build this natural area up for camp worship periods. White birch logs could be used to rail off the area and to make a pulpit. Levelling the ground and rustic benches would complete this ideal spot.

9. Toilets:

A fresh coat of paint inside and out, re-screening and planting of creeping vines would keep this place clean and tidy.

10. Tents and Tent Platforms:

The condition of the tents and fly coverings for same is such that at least six new tents are required before the next season. Many of the tents now in use are disintegrating and are dated as much as fifteen years ago, they were all put in as good a condition as possible at the beginning of this season, but it is the opinion of the camp director and staff that new ones are necessary next year. The other alternative is to erect a permanent roof over each tent platform and use canvas for the sides. Many campers, however, objected to this when it was casually mentioned to them, preferring the canvass cover.

11. Canvas Bunks:

This method of sleeping accommodation has proved itself as comfortable and suitable for the campers. However, after this season it was found that a large percentage of the canvas part had given way on the bunks and needed replacing. It is recommended that a heavier and better type of canvas be used to replace those already torn or beyond repair. All bunks should be carefully examined well before the beginning of next season and repairs made.

12. Grounds in General:

- (a) The area in back of the barn could be turned into a rough golf course. So far it has not been utilized for any purpose. The farmer next door did not even get a crop of hay from it that was worthwhile. It is not level ground, and not suitable for cabins or cottages being too far from the waterfront and too many bugs and mosquitoes present.
- (b) The area in front of the barn, to the east, and behind the hospital has been partly developed into an Archery range. This site could be further developed for Archery and the other section continue to be used for parking automobiles.
- (c) The lone, three-quarters dead tree, on the south side of the road in front of the hospital, could have a bench erected around it, so campers and visitors could view the panorama view across the lake. The tree could also be stripped of all its bark and be used for carving the initials of campers on it who have attended the camp. (This would be a natural outlet for their carving instinct and also a reminder of their stay at camp.)
- (d) The road down to the back of the kitchen should be put in useable shape as soon as possible. The municipality on the island now have a garbage collection service operating twice a week, but with the road down not being useable for trucks they at present refuse to pick up from our camp. The road is also necessary for deliveries of food, milk, etc., but the grade must be reduced before becoming useable. The other road leading down is hazardous, long and not good or available after a rain or heavy dew.
- (e) Athletic Field: This area of land to the east of the water-taps can be developed and used as a very fine sports centre. The baseball field requires a back-stop, further levelling, and constant trimming of high grass and weeds in the back-field. A cinder track could be made circling the entire area. Jumping pits, football goal posts and other track and field games could be marked out and played in this area.
- (f) Council Circle: Rustic seats, and Indian type fence, and more suitable totem poles could be made to add to this area the proper Indian Council atmosphere.

Tree Planting:

A general plan covering the entire area for planting of trees, shrubs and flowers should be made immediately. It is suggested that this should be done, if at all possible, this Fall. It is further suggested that, taking the long term view, slow growing trees be planted with quick growing shrubs or trees and when the shade trees have developed to a suitable size, then the fast growing ones can be removed. A plan covering at least a ten year period should be followed.

Over-night Hike Spots:

Several likely sites have been viewed at the extreme points on the Island. These owners should be approached very soon with a view to purchasing the site for use of over-night hike parties using them. The present Mayor of the Island,

Mr. Lalonde, has several choice sites available for sale or to rent on a long term basis. Mr. Lafleche, at the other extreme on the island has also a few choice camping spots available. Property values are constantly rising on the island and rapidly being purchased by outsiders for cottages, and within a few years even these spots will be beyond the camps financial means.

Adjacent Farm
Property:

Committee negotiations for the purchase of the property next to the camp should be continued. If undesirable owners secure the triangle piece of farmland with a view to building cottages on it, the camp would possibly find it necessary to do some shifting of tents and curtailing of certain activities. These restrictions would not be in the interest of better camping for the group to which we are catering. Every endeavour should be made, at a reasonable price, to secure this land. From the appearance of our next door neighbour, The Lalondes, they seem to have no intention of selling their land, for at the present time, they are extending their home building.